

1.14 Community functioning

Analysis of factors to describe community functioning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians

Data source

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS)

The 2008 NATSISS is the third national social survey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. It was conducted by the ABS between August 2008 and April 2009. The survey provides information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians for a wide range of areas of social issues including family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing and justice. The 2008 NATSISS included, for the first time, questions relating to children aged below 15 years. The 2008 NATSISS collected information by personal interview from 13,300 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were usual residents of private dwellings, across all states and territories of Australia and remoteness areas. Selected comparisons with data from the 2002 NATSISS are presented in this analysis, however it is noted that the sample for the 2002 NATSISS was for persons over 15 years of age only.

The NATSISS will be conducted every six years, with the next survey planned for 2014.

Analyses

Measures of community functioning

This measure is defined as the ability and freedom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and communities to determine the context of their lives (e.g. social, cultural, spiritual and organisational) and to translate their knowledge, skills, and understanding (capabilities) into positive actions towards a valued life incorporates a range of methods and analyses:

- A qualitative method to determine thematic descriptors of functioning determined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Each functioning was attributed with a numeric value (total sum of community functioning themes equivalent to 100). Subsequent to this, a similar qualitative process was undertaken to weight data items derived from the 2008 NATSISS within each theme ie. data items within each functioning were to add to 100 but some items given more weight than others.
- Collated survey results of community functioning themes to show the number and proportion of people who were affirmative in their response to the data items within each functioning eg. 72% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people recognise their homelands.
- Presentation of the distribution of community functioning scores, which vary by age-groups, remoteness, state/territory and gender.
- Summary survey results of community functioning themes for ages 0–14 years and over 15 years, showing the number and proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

people who were affirmative in their responses to select data, by gender, age-groups, remoteness, state/territory.

- Cross tabulation of community functioning themes, significance testing of ratios and chi-squared significance testing of associations between community functioning variables. Summaries of these findings are under development and it is anticipated these will be available in the detailed analyses of the 2012 HPF Report.
- Multivariate analyses of factors contributing to community functioning are also under development and it is anticipated these will be published in the detailed analyses of the 2012 HPF Report.

Development of community functioning themes

Workshops drawing together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants from across Australia were held in 2008 and 2010 to develop key features of functioning in families and communities. Participants were invited from all jurisdictions and a range of sectors to enhance diversity of participants. Participants at the workshops described the various factors they believed were necessary for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have functioning families and communities. At the workshops in 2008 and 2010 similar themes were identified as being important to community functioning (box 14.1). Following the 2010 workshop, survey data was then mapped with the themes in order to create the indicator of community functioning.

For detailed specifications of the performance measure see www.health.gov.au/indigenous-hpf.

The major differences in results between 2008 and 2010 workshops was the mapping of available data to the themes. At the workshops in 2008 the data was sourced from the 2002 NATSISS and the Community Housing Infrastructure Needs Survey (CHINS). The workshops in 2010 focused on 2008 NATSISS data. Despite these differences, the fundamental elements described by participants remained similar.

2008 workshop themes

- Power to control choices and options
- Connectedness to family, land, and history
- Health, chronic disease and substance use
- Culture, identity
- Employment, Education, Income
- Infrastructure and community
- Coping with the internal and external world
- Structure and routine

2010 workshop themes

- Connectedness to country, land and history; culture; identity
- Resilience
- Leadership
- Having a role, structure and routine
- Feeling safe
- Vitality

Box 1.14.1: Community functioning themes identified at workshops

Workshop participants ranked functionings in order of importance, then a weight was applied to each theme in order to produce a score out of 100. Within each functioning, the data items available were then attributed with a weight (to add to the overall weight for that functioning) to produce overall 'scores' for community functioning for each survey

respondent. The weighting of each functioning is important to consider in interpreting prevalence of an issue in comparison to how it contributes to the indicator of community functioning. For example, 72% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people recognise their homelands. This data item sits within the measure of 'connectedness to family, land, history, culture and identity' which contributes 25% of the weight to a score of community functioning. Therefore, the contribution of this data item to the weighted community functioning scores is much greater than the strength of standard measure of socio-economic measure of disadvantage/advantage such as income, which sits within the theme of 'vitality' (weighted at 10%). Note that the community functioning theme 'leadership' is attributed with a weighting of 20%, however there were no suitable data items for persons aged 15 and over.

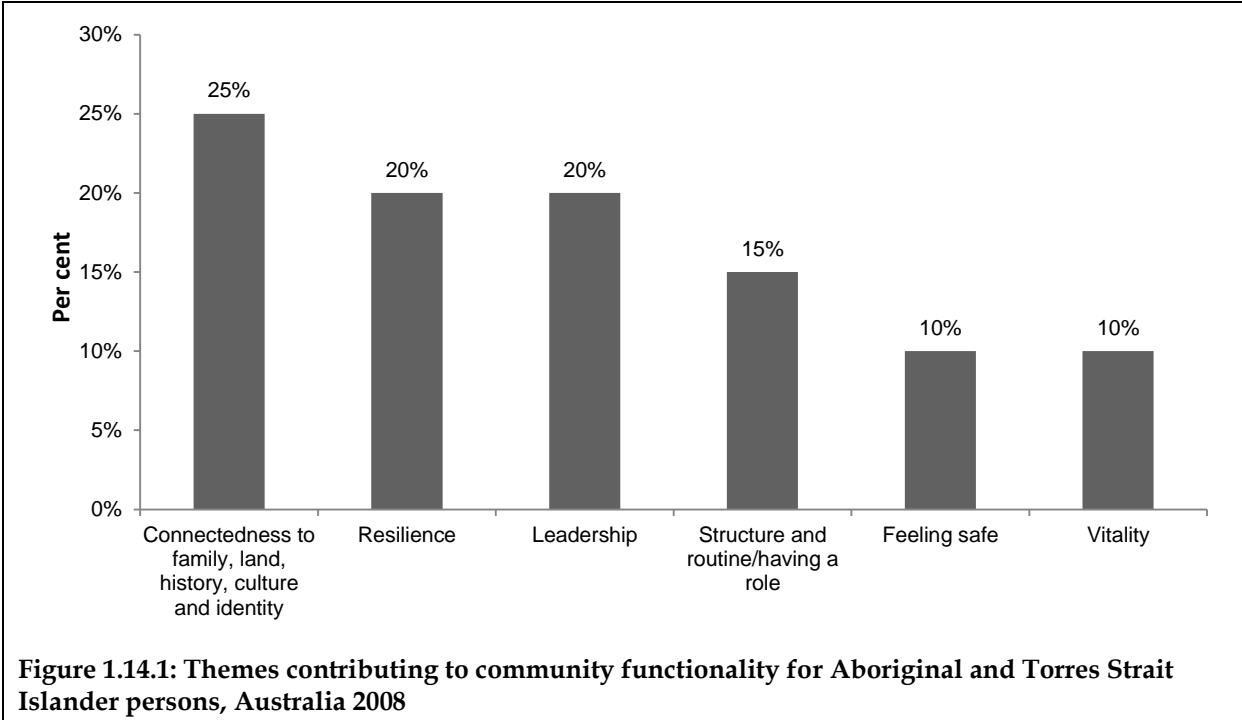


Table 1.14.1: Description of themes contributing to community functioning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, Australia 2008

Functioning	Descriptor	Weight
Connectedness to country, land and history; culture; identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being connected to country, land, family and spirit. • Strong and positive social networks with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. • Strong sense of identity and being part of a collective (ie. knowing where you are from, who is your family). • Sharing; giving and receiving; trust; love; looking out for others. • Engaged/communicative. 	25%
Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coping with the internal and external world. • Power to control choices and options. • Ability to proceed in public without shame. • Optimising what you have. • Challenge injustice and racism, stand up when required. • Cope well with difference, flexibility and accommodating. • Ability to walk in two worlds. • Engaged in decision-making. • External social contacts. 	20%
Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Elders in family and community, both male and female. • Role models both male and female. • Strong direction, vision. • The 'rock', someone who has time to listen and advise. 	20%
Having a role, structure and routine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a role for self: participation, contributing through paid and unpaid roles. • Capabilities and skills derived through social structures and experience through non-formal education. • Knowing boundaries and acceptable behaviours. • Sense of place – knowing your place in family and society. • Being valued and acknowledged. • Disciplined. 	15%
Feeling safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of physical and lateral violence. • Safe places. • Emotional security. • Cultural competency. • Relationships that can sustain disagreement. 	10%
Vitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure of community • Access to services • Education • Health • Income • Employment 	10%

Selected findings

Within each functioning, a range of data are available to describe capabilities contributing to the community functioning scores. A summary of select findings from tables 1.14.2a to 1.14.2f are outlined below:

Connectedness to country, land and history, culture, identity

- 72% of people recognise their homelands
- 19% of people speak an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language
- 94% of people have contact with family or friends from outside of their household at least once a week
- 50% of parents used informal childcare in the last week for their children aged 0-12 years. Grandparents are the biggest source of informal childcare (52%).

Resilience

- 69% of people did not avoid situations due to past discrimination.
- 80% of people agree that their doctor can be trusted.
- 98% of children aged 5-14 years usually attend school.

Leadership

- 42% of children spent time with an Indigenous leader or elder in the last week.

Having a role, structure and routine

- In the last week, 94% of parents spent time with their children undertaking informal learning activities.
- In the last 12 months 78% of people lived in the same dwelling.

Feeling safe

- 80% of people felt safe at home alone after dark.
- 75% of people were not a victim of physical or threatened violence.
- 91% of people have never been incarcerated.
- 81% of children have not been bullied or treated unfairly at school because Indigenous

Vitality

- 82% of people have not consumed alcohol at risky/high risk levels in the last 12 months
- 67% of unemployed adults have used support services
- 71% of people live in a dwelling that has no major structural problems.
- 12% of smokers have tried to quit.
- 33% of adults are intend to study in the future
- 92% of children do not have eye or sight problems

Community and individual aspects contributing to community functioning scores

Table 1.14.2a: Variables contributing to community functioning 'Connectedness to family, land and history, culture, identity' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons^(a), Australia 2008 and 2002

Connectedness to family land and history, culture, identity		2008 No.	2008 (%)	2002 (%)
Access to traditional lands	Recognises homelands	234,383	72	70
	Lives in homelands	82,607	25	22
Removal	Respondent not removed from natural family	293	90	87
	Relatives not removed from natural family	157,767	48	44
	Has seen relatives since being removed from family	22,337	7	..
Protection and maintenance of culture	Main language spoken at home is Aboriginal language/ Torres Strait Islander language	37,552	12	12
	Speaks an Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander language	62,629	19	21
Participation in cultural events	Attended Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural event in last 12 months	205,674	63	68
	- Attended ceremony	52,435	16	24
	- Attended NAIDOC week activities	116,849	36	..
	- Attended sports carnival (excluding NAIDOC week activities)	79,658	24	30
	- Attended festival/carnival involving arts, crafts, music or dance	75,272	23	36
	- Involved with Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander organisation	59,516	18	..
	- Funerals/Sorry business	126,693	39	47
Identity	Identifies with clan group or language group	203,106	62	54
Sense of efficacy	Feels able to have a say with family and friends some, most or all of the time	292,375	89	..
	Feels able to have a say within community on important issues some, most and all of the time	157,312	48	..
Social networks	Contact with family or friends outside household at least once per week	307,515	94	..
	Face to face contact with family or friends outside of household at least once a week	274,681	84	..
	Made other types of contact with family or friends outside household in the last 3 months	294,163	90	..
	- Landline phone	183,766	56	..
	- Mobile phone for calls	230,008	70	..
	- Mobile phone for SMS	151,134	46	..
	- Internet	88,840	27	..
	- Mail or fax	28,211	9	..
	- Other forms of contact	1,508	1	..
	Has family members can confide in outside household	251,534	77	..
Has friends can confide in	246,649	75	..	

(continued)

Table 1.14.2a (continued): Variables contributing to community functioning 'Connectedness to family, land and history, culture, identity' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons^(a), Australia 2008 and 2002

Connectedness to family land and history, culture, identity		2008 No.	2008 (%)	2002 (%)
Social support				
(See also Resilience)	Able to get support in time of crisis from outside household - from family member	261,506	80	..
	Provides support to relatives outside household	166,892	51	..
	Provides support to anyone outside household in last 4 weeks - type of support eg:			
	- Provided transport or running errands	95,786	29	..
	- Unpaid child care	53,471	16	..
	- Emotional support	93,700	29	..
	Used informal child care in last week 0-12 years - carer who usually looks after child eg:	83,971	50	..
Used Informal Child care in last week (0-12 years)	Mother living elsewhere	3,757	5	..
	Father living elsewhere	10,147	12	..
(See also Resilience)	Grandparent	43,984	52	..
	Brother or sister	7,523	9	..
	Any other relative	25,880	31	..
Education - child (2-14 years)	Types of assistance that would help child in secondary school complete year 12 eg:			
	- A relative to support if goes away to boarding school	4,100	12	..

(a) Ages 15 and over unless otherwise stated.

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 1.14.2b: Variables contributing to community functioning 'Resilience' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons^(a), Australia 2008 and 2002

Resilience		2008 No.	2008 (%)	2002 (%)
Power to control choices and options	Did not feel discriminated against in last 12 months	237,812	73	..
	Did not avoid situations due to past discrimination	225,507	69	..
	Can visit homelands	146,017	45	46
	Involvement with Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander organisation	59,516	18	26
	Work allows for cultural responsibilities—can meet responsibilities	75,028	23	22
	Used strategies to meet living expenses	119,147	36	49
Household finances	Has a bank account	309,547	95	94
	Could raise \$2,000 within a week	150,004	46	41
Community problems	No community problems reported	84,327	26	25
	Community problems reported, but less than three types	73,788	23	..
	- No problems reported for theft	192,535	59	57
	- No problems reported for alcohol	192,138	59	67
	- No problems reported for illicit drugs	208,039	64	68
	- No problems reported for family violence	245,938	75	79
	- No problems reported for assault	253,009	77	80
	- No problems reported for sexual assault	288,926	88	92
	Total persons who reported a community problem	232,592	71	74
Stressors	No stressors reported in last 12 months	74,413	23	18
	Less than three types of stressors reported in the last 12 months	116,369	36	..
	- No stressors reported for death of a family member or close friend	200,011	61	54
	- No stressor reported for serious disability	305,205	93	..
	- No stressor reported for serious illness	233,202	71	..
	- No stressors reported for not able to get a job	255,386	78	73
	- No stressors reported for witness to violence	299,054	91	84
	- No stressors reported for member of family sent to jail/currently in jail	287,458	88	81
Total persons who reported a stressor	252,503	77	82	
Trust	Agrees that most people can be trusted	118,975	36	..
	Agrees that their doctor can be trusted	260,777	80	..
	Agrees that the hospital can be trusted	204,189	62	..
	Agrees that police in the local area can be trusted	170,317	52	..
	Agrees that police outside the local area can be trusted	133,362	41	..
	Agrees that the local school can be trusted	224,734	69	..

(continued)

Table 1.14.2b (continued): Variables contributing to community functioning 'Resilience' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, Australia 2008 and 2002

Resilience		2008 No.	2008 (%)	2002 (%)
Sense of efficacy	Does know a member of parliament/comfortable contacting	65,670	20	..
	Knows someone in organisation/comfortable contacting	132,011	54	..
	Types of organisations would feel comfortable contacting - Non Remote only			
	- State or territory government department	32,644	13	..
	- Federal government department	18,952	8	..
	- Local council	38,606	16	..
	- Legal system	35,824	15	..
	- Healthcare	51,057	21	..
	- Trade union	13,296	5	..
	- Political party	11,681	5	..
	- Media	12,732	5	..
	- University / TAFE / Business college	34,805	14	..
	- Religious / Spiritual group	29,822	12	..
	- School related group	33,766	14	..
	- Big business	14,447	6	..
- Small business	31,418	13	..	
Social contact (See also Structure and routine/having a role)	Adult participated in sport/social/community activities in last 3 months eg:	289,381	89	..
	- Attended sporting event as a spectator	127,180	39	..
	- Recreational or cultural group	46,263	14	..
	- Attended a native title meeting	18,504	6	..
	- Community or special interest group activities	42,274	13	..
	- Church or religious activities	49,393	15	24
	- Went out to a cafe, restaurant or bar	171,233	52	57
	- Visited library, museum or art gallery	85,306	26	..
	- Attended movies, theatre or concert	102,056	31	..
	- Visited park, botanic gardens, zoo or theme park	101,152	31	..
	- Watched Indigenous TV	177,695	54	..
	- Listened to Indigenous radio	85,682	26	..
	- Domestic work, home maintenance or gardening	80,045	25	..
	- Teaching, coaching or practical advice	37,496	12	..
	- Other support	20,543	6	..

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Table 1.14.2b (continued): Variables contributing to community functioning 'Resilience' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons^(a), Australia 2008 and 2002

Resilience		2008 No.	2008 (%)	2002 (%)
Social support	Able to get general support from outside household	291,459	89	..
(See also Connectedness)	Able to get support in time of crisis from outside household - source of support eg:	290,463	89	..
	- Friend	208,326	64	..
	- Neighbour	90,117	28	..
	- Work colleague	62,338	19	..
	- Community, charity or religious organisation	42,538	13	..
	- Local council or other government service	19,708	6	..
	- Health, legal or financial professional	29,798	9	..
	Provides support to anyone outside household in last 4 weeks	184,537	57	..
Health – child (0-14 years)	No selected stressors experienced by children aged 0-3 years in last 12 months	30,146	56	..
	No selected stressors experienced by children aged 4-14 years in the last 12 months	49,058	35	..
Used Informal Child care in last week (0-12 years) (See also Connectedness)	Used informal child care in last weeks - carer who usually looks after child:			
	- Family friend	5,292	6	..
	- Baby sitter	368	0.5	..
	- Nanny	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
	- Neighbour	999	1	..
	- Any other person	733	1	..
	- An organisation (other than formal care)	482	1	..
Education - child (2-14 years)	Child usually attends school	138,426	83	..
	- Children aged 2-4 years	13,964	36	..
	- Children aged 5-14 years	124,462	98	..
	Did not miss days at school/preschool/kindergarten in last week	99,913	60	..
	Types of assistance that would help child in secondary school complete year 12:			
	- Support from family, friends and school	28,273	83	..
	- Provision of coaches or mentors	8,104	24	..
	- Career guidance	12,341	36	..
	- Assistance for students with a disability	2,711	8	..
	- Support networks	8,575	25	..

(a) Ages 15 and over unless otherwise stated.

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 1.14.2c: Variables contributing to community functioning 'Having a role, structure and routine' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons^(a), Australia 2008 and 2002

Structure and routine/having a role		2008 No.	2008 (%)	2002 (%)
Structure and routine	Can communicate with English speakers without difficulty (Indigenous language is main language spoken at home)	27,179	8	..
	In the last 12 months, has lived in only one dwelling	255,157	78	69
	No days without money for basic living expenses in the last 12 months	233,805	72	56
	No days without money for basic living expenses in the last 2 weeks	281,429	86	68
	Did not have a cash flow problem	238,750	73	46
Social contact (See also Resilience)	Adult participated in sport/social/community activities in last 3 months			
	- Coach, instructor or teacher	28,152	9	..
	- Referee, umpire or official	15,218	5	..
	- Committee member or administrator	22,850	7	..
Education – child	- Took part in sport or physical activities	82,227	25	60
	Activities were undertaken with child doing informal learning activities in the last week	180,736	94	..
	Types of assistance that would help child in secondary school complete year 12:			
- More discipline	5,354	16	..	
Health - child	Child cleans teeth once or twice per day (children aged 0-14 years)	137,034	71	..

(a) Ages 15 and over unless otherwise stated.

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 1.14.2d: Variables contributing to community functioning 'Leadership' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 0-14 years, Australia 2008 and 2002

Leadership		2008 No.	2008 (%)	2002 (%)
Social contact	Child spent time with an Indigenous leader or elder in last week (children aged 3-14 years)	65,035	42	..
Education – child	Types of assistance that would help child in secondary school complete year 12:			
	- Encouragement from elders and council (children aged 2-14 years)	7,504	22	..

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 1.14.2e: Variables contributing to community functioning 'Feeling safe' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons^(a), Australia 2008 and 2002

Feeling Safe		2008 No.	2008 (%)	2002 (%)
Safety	Felt safe at home alone during the day	305,892	94	..
	Felt safe at home alone after dark	261,414	80	..
	Felt safe walking alone in local area after dark	172,047	53	..
Crime and justice	Not a victim of physical or threatened violence in the last 12 months	246,372	75	76
	Has not been a victim of physical violence in last 12 months	278,880	85	..
	Has not been a victim of threatened physical violence in last 12 months	267,344	82	..
	Did not use legal services in the last 12 months	269,938	83	80
	Not arrested by police in the last 5 years	277,702	85	84
	Not incarcerated in the last 5 years	316,033	97	93
	Has never been incarcerated in lifetime	297,030	91	..
Cultural identification, participation and education	Indigenous culture taught at school (children aged 2-14 years)	87,833	53	..
	Was taught Indigenous culture at school or as part of further studies	148,592	45	..
	<i>Where Indigenous cultural education was received:</i>			
	- Primary school	81,630	25	..
	- Secondary school	88,285	27	..
	- University / Other higher education	15,586	5	..
	- TAFE / Technical college	14,682	5	..
	- Business college ²	136	0	..
	- Adult or community education centre	2,576	1	..
	- Industry skills centre ¹	417	0.1	..
	- Other organisation	4,993	2	..
	- None of the above ¹	998	0.3	..
	Learnt about own Indigenous clan / language	55,947	17	..
Education - child	Child neither bullied nor treated unfairly at school because Indigenous (children aged 2-14 years)	112,159	81	..

(a) Ages 15 and over unless otherwise stated.

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 1.14.2f: Variables contributing to community functioning 'Vitality' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons^(a), Australia 2008 and 2002

Vitality		2008 No.	2008 (%)	2002 (%)
Child Health	Not concerned about child's learning due to health (1-14 years)	153,971	86	..
	Child does not have eye or sight problems (0-14 years)	177,125	92	..
	Child does not have ear or hearing problems (0-14 years)	175,065	91	..
	Child does not have teeth or gum problems (0-14 years)	121,177	63	..
	Child born on time (37-41 weeks) (0-3 years)	29,998	56	..
	Child weighed between 2500 grams and 4500 grams at birth (0-3 years)	39,560	73	..
	Child's mother had regular check-ups while pregnant (0-3 years)	47,014	87	..
	Child's mother did not have diabetes or sugar problems (0-3 years)	47,149	88	..
	Child's mother did not have high blood pressure (0-3 years)	43,806	81	..
	Child's mother took folate prior to and during pregnancy (0-3 years)	8,257	15	..
	Child's mother took medications or supplements during pregnancy (0-3 years)	22,381	42	..
	Child's mother did not drink alcohol during pregnancy (0-3 years)	34,359	64	..
	Child's mother did not smoke/ chew tobacco during pregnancy (0-3 years)	24,781	46	..
	Child's mother did not use illicit drugs/ substances during pregnancy (0-3 yrs)	40,649	75	..
	Child was breastfed (0-3 years)	40,696	76	..
	Child usually eats 2 or more serves of fruit per day - non Remote - (1-14 years)	82,580	60	..
	Child usually eats 5 or more serves of vegetables per day - non Remote - (1-14 years)	6,979	5	..
	Child does not spend more than 2 hours per day being inactive (5-14 years)	42,887	34	..
	Child spent 60 minutes or more per day being physically active in last week (4-14 years)	103,279	74	..
	Child did not have problems sleeping in last 4 weeks (0-14 years)	146,366	76	..
Adult health, social and emotional wellbeing, chronic disease and substance use	Self-assessed health status excellent or very good	143,004	44	44
	Has no disability or long term-health condition	164,157	50	64
	Has not consumed alcohol in last 12 months at risky/high-risk levels	266,458	82	84
	Has not used substances illicitly in last 12 months	228,799	70	71
	Does not have an education restriction due to disability	142,632	46	..
	Does not have an employment restriction due to disability	125,599	40	..
	Low/ moderate level of psychological distress (5-11 K5 score)	221,717	68	..
Smoking	Not a regular smoker	176,408	54	51
	- Tried to quit smoking	39,539	12	..
	- Tried to reduce smoking	26,313	8	..
	- Tried both	27,069	8	..
	No current daily smoker(s) in household – all ages	171,617	33	..
	No household members smoke inside the house – all ages	372,379	72	..
Continuing employment	Employed	169,098	52	..
	2 years or more in current job	90,372	28	..
	Current job is permanent	129,786	40	..

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Table 1.14.2f (continued): Variables contributing to community functioning 'Vitality' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons^(a), Australia 2008 and 2002

Vitality		2008 No.	2008 (%)	2002 (%)
Unemployed and main difficulty finding work	Transport problems/distance	4,674	14	15
	No jobs at all	2,739	8	11
	No jobs in local area or line of work	4,908	15	11
	Insufficient education, training, skills	6,214	19	26
	Own ill health or disability	2,328	7	6
	Racial discrimination *	1,466	4	2
	Age *	589	2	6
	Have criminal record	811	2	..
	Don't have driver's licence	2,214	7	..
	Unable to find suitable child care	979	3	..
	Total with difficulties	29,679	89	91
Unemployed and use of employment support services in last 12 months	Used services	22,402	67	68
	Did not use services	10,994	33	32
	Needed services	2,482	7	9
	Did not need services	8,512	26	23
Education	Year 12 highest year of school completed, not currently attending secondary school	66,220	20	18
	Total persons 15 years and over not at school	299,689	92	..
	Has a non-school qualification (persons aged 25-64)	83,257	40	32
Education - adult	Intends to study in the future	109,245	33	..
	Reasons for future educational intentions			
	- To gain a promotion	5,874	2	..
	- To get a better job	32,528	10	..
	- To get a job	23,693	7	..
	- Requirement of current job	3,576	1	..
	- Update training	12,505	4	..
	- Improve knowledge or skills	47,768	15	..
	- Improve qualifications	34,584	11	..
- Interest	15,568	5	..	
Education - child (2-14 years)	Types of assistance that would help child in secondary school complete year 12 (cont.) eg:			
	- Greater access to apprenticeships	8,391	25	..
	- More individual tutoring	11,064	32	..
	- Schools suitable for culture and/or beliefs	5,901	17	..
	- Suitable or reliable transport	5,048	15	..
	- Accessible secondary schools	3,505	10	..
	- Subsidies or grants to help affordability	8,667	25	..

(continued)

Table 1.14.2f (continued): Variables contributing to community functioning 'Vitality' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons^(a), Australia 2008 and 2002

Vitality	2008 No.	2008 (%)	2002 (%)
Used child care(informal and formal care) in last week (0-12 years)	93,838	56	..
Used formal child care in last week 0-4 years	14,356	22	..
Used formal child care in last week 5-12 years	9,389	9	..
Total used formal child care in last week (0-12 years)	23,745	14	..
Main reasons attends child care			
Parental work commitments	12,408	52	..
Parental study commitments ¹	977	4	..
Parent looking for work ¹	537	2	..
Parental sport/social/volunteer/community activities ²	319	1	..
To give parent a break or some time alone ¹	2,352	10	..
A good way to prepare child for school	1,665	7	..
Good for child's intellectual or language development ¹	739	3	..
Good for child's social development	3,930	17	..
Housing (all age groups)			
Living in a dwelling that has no major structural problems	370,606	71	60
Dwelling not overcrowded (Canadian National Occupancy Standard)	375,341	72	74
Working household facilities for:			..
- Washing people	507,710	98	99
- Washing clothes and bedding	483,623	93	98
- Storing/preparing foods	473,942	91	92
- Sewerage facilities	508,071	98	98
Communication services			
Household members used telephone(s) in last month	317,203	97	..
Used computer in last 12 months	218,006	67	56
Used Internet in last 12 months	192,852	59	41
Information Technology - adult			
Working computer in home – all ages	299,854	58	..
Computer connected to Internet – all ages	224,024	43	..
Reasons for using computer in last 12 months – persons aged 15 years and over			
- Work or Business	95,495	29	..
- Education or Study	75,712	23	..
- Volunteer or community group activities	14,795	5	..
- Personal or private	187,012	57	..
Purpose of Internet use in last 12 months - persons aged 15 years and over			
- Work/business	79,101	17	..
- To pay bills	51,434	11	..
- Education/ study	135,646	30	..
- Volunteer/ community groups	12,404	3	..
- Buying goods on-line new/ used goods	48,457	11	..
- Entertainment or leisure on-line or general browsing	154,270	34	..

(continued)

Table 1.14.2f (continued): Variables contributing to community functioning 'Vitality' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons^(a), Australia 2008 and 2002

Vitality		2008 No.	2008 (%)	2002 (%)
	- Talking/ communicating with people emails/ chat rooms	125,142	28	..
	- Personal/ private reasons	88,461	20	..
Information Technology - child	Reasons for using computer in last 12 months - child (5-14 years)			
	- School work	98,030	77	..
	- Playing games	82,542	65	..
	- Hobbies/ non-school activities	36,054	29	..
	Purpose of Internet use in last 12 months children (5 to 14 years)			
	- Education/ study	68,072	54	..
	- Entertainment or leisure on-line or general browsing	52,450	41	..
	- Talking/ communicating with people emails/ chat rooms	22,729	18	..
	- Personal/ private reasons	12,420	10	..
	Total used internet all persons	281,009	62	..
Transport	Has access to motor vehicles whenever needed	215,689	66	55
	Holds a current driver's licence – 18+ years	184,117	63	..
	Can easily get to places needed	241,481	74	70
	Used transport in last 2 weeks	317,084	97	..
	Used public transport in last 2 weeks	91,673	28	..
	Main reasons for not using public transport:			
	- Prefer to use own transport [or walk]	100,311	31	29
	- No service available [to destination]	3,509	1	..
	- No service available/convenient time	10,495	3	4
	- Cost considerations	2,819	1	1
- Takes too long	3,461	1	..	
- Health reasons	3,106	1	..	
Income	Equivalentised gross household income 3rd quintile or above	92,063	35	25
Main current source of personal income	CDEP	15,023	5	10
	Other wages/salaries	131,781	40	29
	Government pensions and allowances	132,841	41	50
	Other sources	6,948	2	..
	Total in labour force	202,511	62	60
Total persons aged 15 years and over		327,001	100	..

(a) Ages 15 and over unless otherwise stated.

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Score distribution

Figures 1.14.2a through to and 1.14.5b show the distribution of the calculated community functioning scores for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 0–14 years of age and 15 years and over. The total area under the curve is 100 because they are relative frequency distributions. Community functioning scores have been categorised into groupings each of width '5'. Each point on the curve represents the percentage of respondents with a score in that range. The greater the score, the stronger the community functioning. Medians have been noted in text to illustrate the middle of a distribution.

- Community functioning scores vary by age, with the strongest scores being in the 35 to 54 year age group (median score 45).
- Community functioning scores do not differ by sex for persons aged 0 to 14 years, but they do differ slightly between men (median score 44) and women (median score 43) aged 15 years and over.
- Community functioning scores are greater for persons aged 0 to 14 years in *Remote* (median score 22) and *Very remote* areas (median score 23), and are slightly greater by remoteness for persons aged 15 years and over (*Very remote* median score 45 compared to *Major cities* median score 44).
- Community functioning scores vary by jurisdiction. Scores are strongest for persons age 0 to 14 years in the Northern Territory (median score 23) and strongest in the Australian Capital Territory (median score 49) for persons aged 15 years and over.

Select variables contributing to community functioning scores for 0–14 year olds and for persons aged 15 years and over are provided in tables 1.14.3a to 1.14.6b.

Table 1.14.3: Median community functioning scores for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, by age group, Australia 2008

Median score by sex	0–14	15+	Median score by age group		
Male	20	44	0–14	21	
Female	21	43	15–34	43	
			35–54	45	
			55+	42	
Median score by state	0–14	15+	Median score by remoteness	0–14	15+
New South Wales	20	42	Major Cities of Australia	20	44
Victoria	19	44	Inner Regional Australia	20	43
Queensland	21	44	Outer Regional Australia	20	43
South Australia	21	44	Non remote	20	43
Western Australia	20	44	Remote Australia	22	44
Tasmania	19	43	Very Remote Australia	23	45
Northern Territory	23	45	Remote	23	44
Australian Capital Territory	21	49			

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS

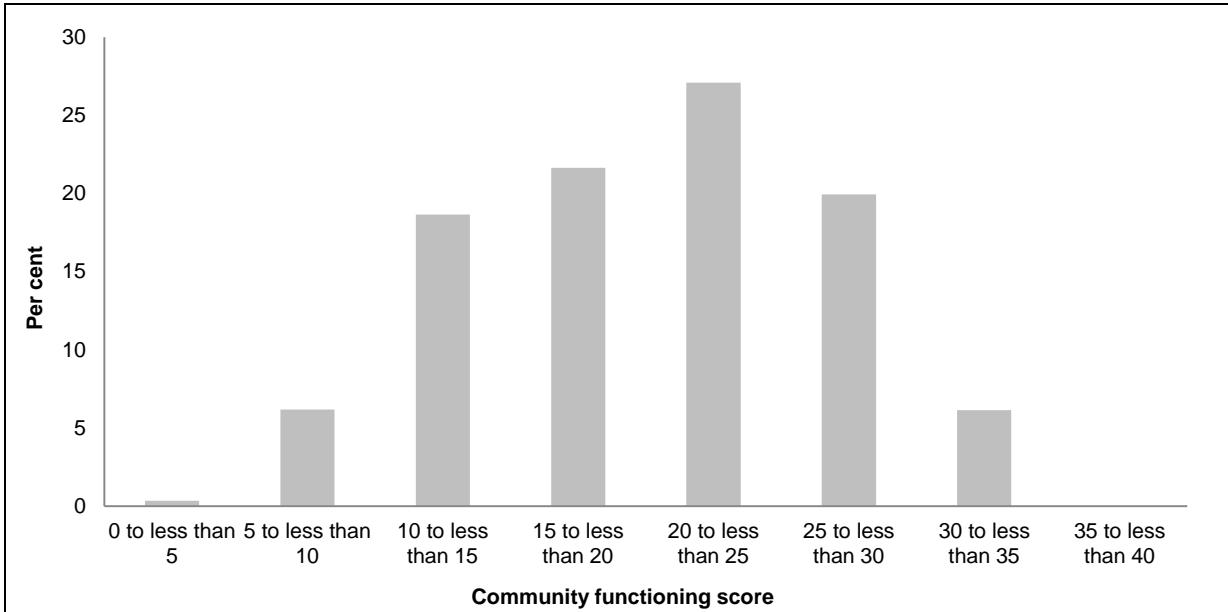


Figure 1.14.2a: Distribution of community functioning scores for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 0-14 years, Australia 2008

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

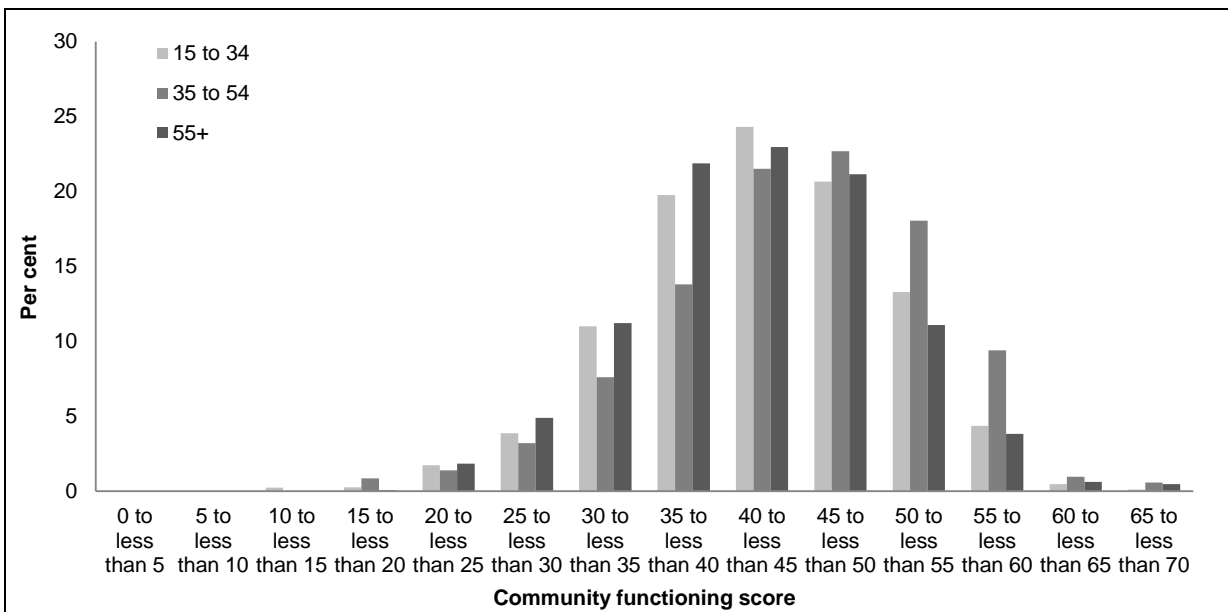


Figure 1.14.2b: Distribution of community functioning scores for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over, Australia 2008

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

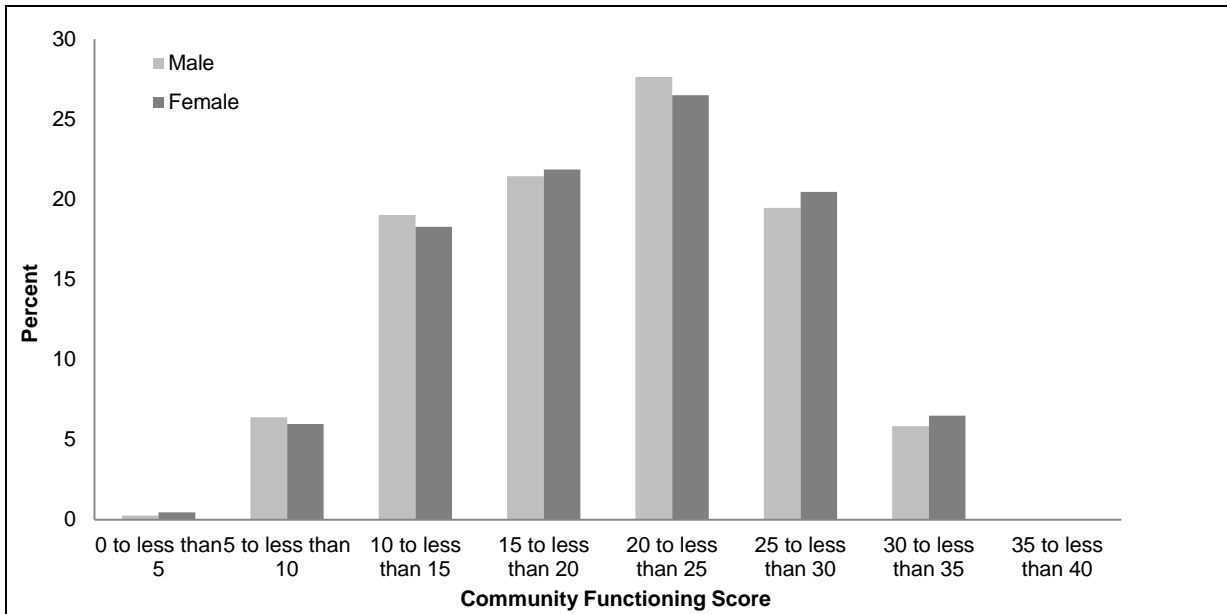


Figure 1.14.3a: Distribution of community functioning scores for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 0-14 years, by sex, Australia 2008

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

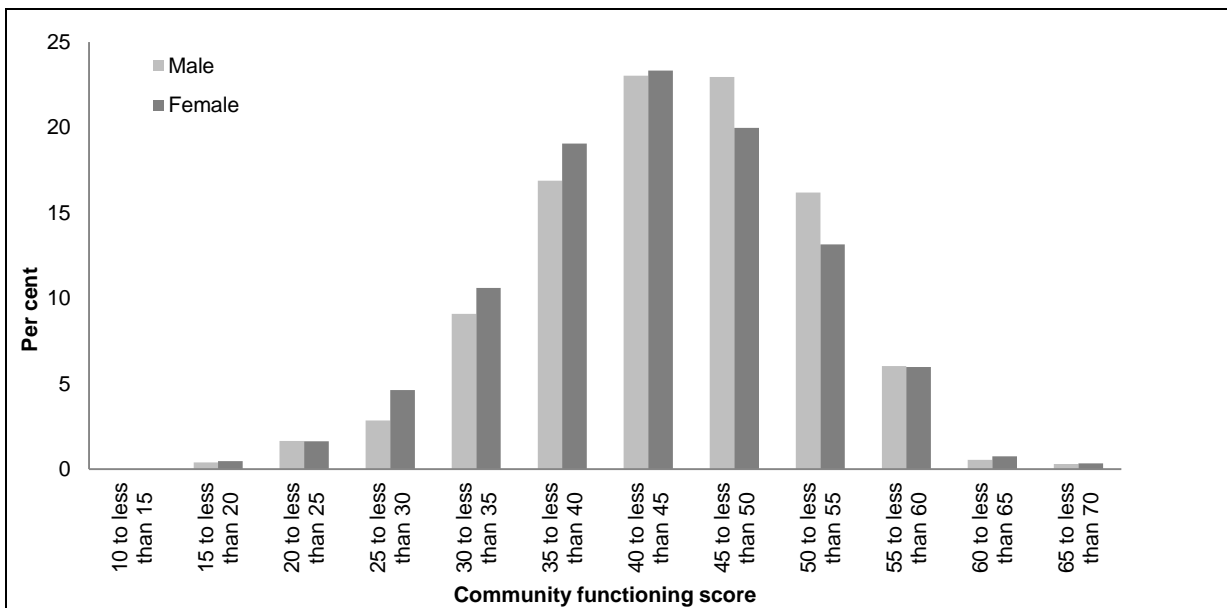


Figure 1.14.3b: Distribution of community functioning scores for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over, by sex, Australia 2008

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

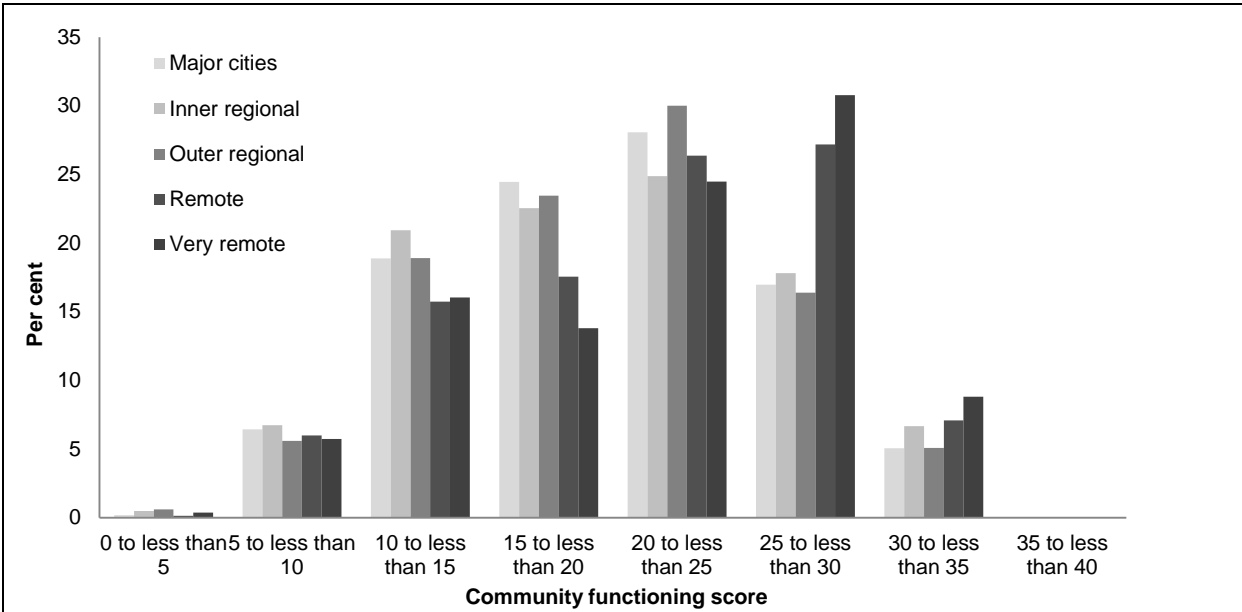


Figure 1.14.4a: Distribution of community functioning scores for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 0-14 years, by remoteness, Australia 2008

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

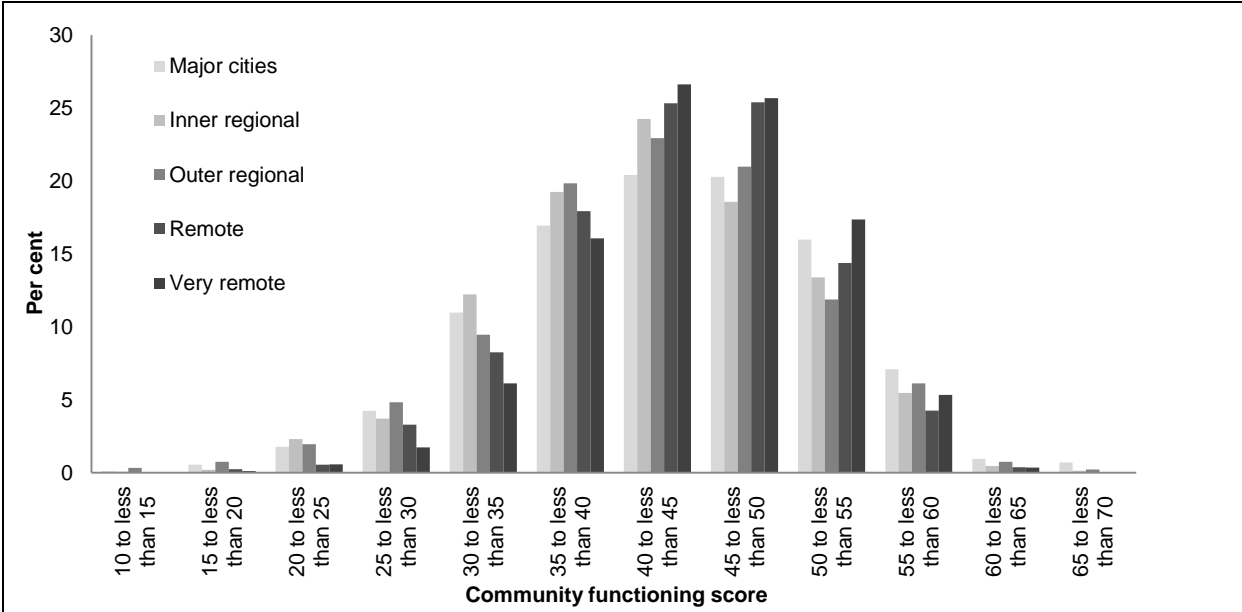


Figure 1.14.4b: Distribution of community functioning scores for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over, by remoteness, Australia 2008

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

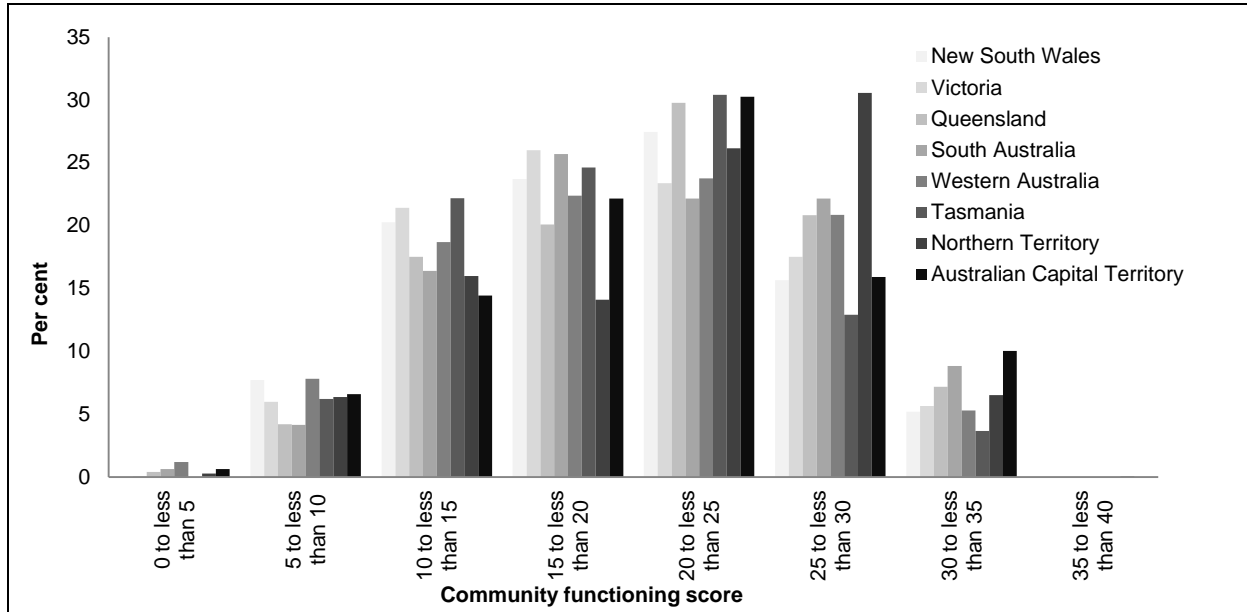


Figure 1.14.5a: Distribution of community functioning scores for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 0-14 years, by state/territory, Australia 2008

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

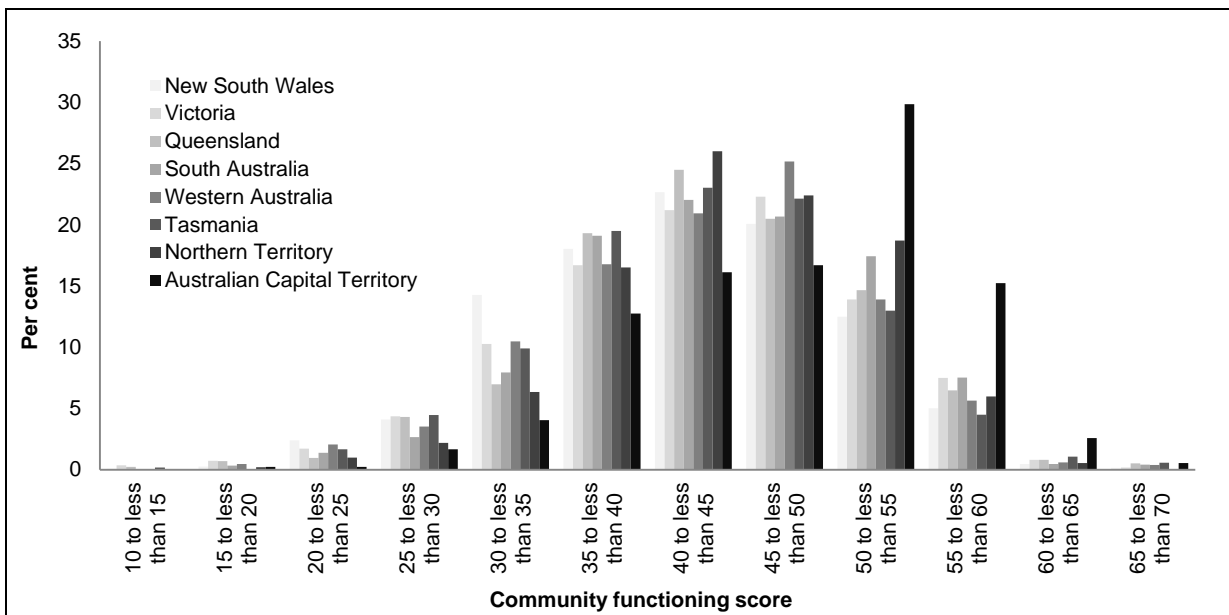


Figure 1.14.5b: Distribution of community functioning scores for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over, by state/territory, Australia 2008

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 1.14.4: Community functioning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, by age group, Australia 2008

	15 to 34		35 to 54		55 and over		Total 15+	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Connectedness to family land and history, culture, identity								
Recognises homelands	113,764	66	87,918	79	32,700	77	234,383	72
Speaks an Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander language	29,738	17	23,105	21	9,787	23	62,629	19
Attended Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural event in last 12 months	108,638	63	72,084	65	24,952	59	205,674	63
Identifies with clan group or language group	97,157	56	77,812	70	28,138	66	203,106	62
Feels able to have a say with family and friends some, most or all of the time	153,957	89	100,991	91	37,427	88	292,375	89
Contact with family or friends outside household at least once per week	166,284	96	102,217	92	39,014	92	307,515	94
Has friends can confide in	136,084	78	80,530	73	30,034	71	246,649	75
Able to get support in time of crisis from outside household - from family member	141,102	81	88,227	80	32,177	76	261,506	80
Provides support to relatives outside household	74,459	43	71,281	64	21,152	50	166,892	51
Resilience								
Did not feel discriminated against in last 12 months	125,838	72	77,102	70	34,872	82	237,812	73
Did not avoid situations due to past discrimination	119,322	69	72,855	66	33,330	78	225,507	69
Can visit homelands	67,801	39	56,649	51	125	51	146,017	45
Involvement with Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander organisation	23,361	13	27,545	25	8,611	20	59,516	18
Work allows for and can meet cultural responsibilities	35,923	21	32,534	29	6,571	15	75,028	23
Used strategies to meet living expenses	71,078	41	37,359	34	10,711	25	119,147	36
No community problems reported	46,208	27	24,621	22	13,498	32	84,327	26
No problems reported for alcohol	101,512	58	61,953	56	28,674	67	192,138	59
No problems reported for illicit drugs	109,330	63	68,697	62	30,012	70	208,039	64
No problems reported for family violence	132,287	76	80,209	72	33,442	79	245,938	75
No problems reported for sexual assault	154,233	89	95,411	86	39,281	92	288,926	88
Agrees that most people can be trusted	62,102	36	40,184	36	16,689	39	118,975	36
Agrees that their doctor can be trusted	138,253	80	86,543	78	35,980	84	260,777	80
Agrees that the hospital can be trusted	114,324	66	61,636	56	28,229	66	204,189	62
Agrees that police in the local area can be trusted	88,337	51	57,187	52	24,793	58	170,317	52
Agrees that police outside the local area can be trusted	72,504	42	43,389	39	17,470	41	133,362	41

(continued)

Table 1.14.4 (continued): Community functioning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, by age group, Australia 2008

	15 to 34		35 to 54		55 and over		Total 15+	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agrees that the local school can be trusted	120,787	70	76,510	69	27,437	64	224,734	69
Knows someone in organisation/comfortable contacting	59,944	35	53,218	48	18,849	44	132,011	54
Adult participated in sport/social/community activities in last 3 months	156,169	90	97,358	88	35,855	84	289,381	89
Leadership								
Child spent time with an Indigenous leader or elder in last week (children aged 3-14 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	65,035	42
Encouragement from elders and council would help child complete year 12	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,504	22
Structure and routine/having a role								
Can communicate with English speakers without difficulty (Indigenous language is main language spoken at home)	13,999	8	9,020	8	4,159	10	27,179	8
In the last 12 months, has lived in only one dwelling	124,532	72	92,545	84	38,080	89	255,157	78
Activities were undertaken with child doing informal learning activities in the last week (0-14 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	180,736	94
Feeling safe								
Felt safe at home alone during the day	162,309	93	103,883	94	39,701	93	305,892	94
Felt safe at home alone after dark	133,812	77	93,873	85	33,729	79	261,414	80
Felt safe walking alone in local area after dark	95,346	55	59,863	54	16,838	40	172,047	53
Not a victim of physical or threatened violence in the last 12 months	121,750	70	85,553	77	39,069	92	246,372	75
Indigenous culture taught at school	..	..	..	..	..	..	87,833	53
Was taught Indigenous culture at school or as part of further studies	102,907	59	39,118	35	6,567	15	148,592	45
Learnt about own Indigenous clan / language	35,203	20	17,818	16	2,926	7	55,497	17
Child neither bullied nor treated unfairly at school because Indigenous	..	..	..	..	..	..	112,159	81
Vitality								
Self-assessed health status excellent or very good	95,001	55	38,609	35	9,394	22	143,004	44
Has no disability or long term-health condition	107,629	62	46,932	42	9,597	23	164,157	50
Does not have an education restriction due to disability	60,671	35	63,065	57	19,965	47	142,632	46
Does not have an employment restriction due to disability	56,721	33	52,128	47	17,831	42	125,599	40
Low/ moderate level of psychological distress (5-11 K5 score)	119,341	69	73,076	66	29,301	69	221,717	68

(continued)

Table 1.14.4 (continued): Community functioning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, by age group, Australia 2008

	15 to 34		35 to 54		55 and over		Total 15+	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Employed (persons aged 25-64 in the labour force)	87,546	50	69,604	63	11,948	28	169,098	52
Living in a dwelling that has no major structural problems	121,544	70	79,248	72	32,160	75	370,606	71
Household members used telephone(s) in last month	169,038	97	107,196	97	40,968	96	317,203	97
Used computer in last 12 months	134,313	77	70,066	63	13,627	32	218,006	67
Used Internet in last 12 months	122,876	71	60,184	54	9,793	23	192,852	59
Has access to motor vehicles whenever needed	98,481	57	88,115	80	29,093	68	215,689	66
Can easily get to places needed	122,099	70	86,247	78	33,135	78	241,481	74
Equivalised gross household income in 3rd quintile or above	85,690	49	48,259	44	25,313	59	92,063	35
Total persons	173,711	100	110,763	100	42,627	100	327,101	100

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 1.14.5: Community functioning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over, by sex, Australia 2008

	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Connectedness to family land and history, culture, identity						
Recognises homelands	114,402	73	119,981	70	234,383	72
Speaks an Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander language	31,994	21	30,636	18	62,629	19
Attended Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural event in last 12 months	91,804	59	113,871	67	205,674	63
Identifies with clan group or language group	98,781	63	104,325	61	203,106	62
Feels able to have a say with family and friends some, most or all of the time	138,155	89	154,220	90	292,375	89
Contact with family or friends outside household at least once per week	144,391	93	163,124	95	307,515	94
Has friends can confide in	114,720	74	131,929	77	246,649	75
Able to get support in time of crisis from outside household - from family	122,982	79	138,523	81	261,506	80
Provides support to relatives outside household	77,654	50	89,238	52	166,892	51
Resilience						
Did not feel discriminated against in last 12 months	112,582	72	125,230	73	237,812	73
Did not avoid situations due to past discrimination	107,002	69	118,505	69	225,507	69
Can visit homelands	70,387	45	75,629	44	146,017	45
Involvement with Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander organisation	24,411	16	35,105	21	59,516	18
Work allows for cultural responsibilities—can meet responsibilities	41,488	27	33,541	20	75,028	23
Used strategies to meet living expenses	53,036	34	66,112	39	119,147	36
No community problems reported	42,324	27	42,003	25	84,327	26
No problems reported for alcohol	90,537	58	101,601	59	192,138	59
No problems reported for illicit drugs	98,665	63	109,374	64	208,039	64
No problems reported for family violence	119,543	77	126,395	74	245,938	75
No problems reported for sexual assault	138,589	89	150,337	88	288,926	88
Agrees that most people can be trusted	62,527	40	56,448	33	118,975	36
Agrees that their doctor can be trusted	122,755	79	138,022	81	260,777	80
Agrees that the hospital can be trusted	103,454	66	100,735	59	204,189	62
Agrees that police in the local area can be trusted	79,367	51	90,950	53	170,317	52
Agrees that police outside the local area can be trusted	64,110	41	69,251	41	133,362	41
Agrees that the local school can be trusted	107,062	69	117,672	69	224,734	69
Knows someone in organisation/comfortable contacting	60,920	39	71,091	42	132,011	40
Adult participated in sport/social/community activities in last 3 months	136,826	88	152,555	89	289,381	89

(continued)

Table 1.14.5 (continued): Community functioning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over, by sex, Australia 2008

	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Leadership						
Social contact/Education	..	..	..	..	..	..
Structure and routine/having a role						
Can communicate with English speakers without difficulty (Indigenous language is main language spoken at home)	12,962	8	14,217	8	27,179	8
In the last 12 months, has lived in only one dwelling	121,703	78	133,454	78	255,157	78
Feeling safe						
Felt safe at home alone during the day	150,733	97	155,159	91	305,892	94
Felt safe at home alone after dark	142,431	91	118,983	70	261,414	80
Felt safe walking alone in local area after dark	112,743	72	59,305	35	172,047	53
Not a victim of physical or threatened violence in the last 12 months:	117,868	76	128,504	75	246,372	75
Was taught Indigenous culture at school or as part of further studies	69,089	44	79,504	47	148,592	45
Learnt about own Indigenous clan / language	25,817	17	30,129	18	55,947	17
Vitality						
Self-assessed health status excellent or very good	72,507	47	70,497	41	143,004	44
Has no disability or long term-health condition	80,396	52	83,761	49	164,157	50
Does not have an education restriction due to disability	67,946	44	75,754	44	143,701	44
Does not have an employment restriction due to disability	58,482	38	68,198	40	126,681	39
Low/ moderate level of psychological distress (5-11 K5 score)	111,245	71	110,473	65	221,717	68
Employed (persons aged 25-64 in the labour force)	94,464	61	74,633	44	169,098	52
Living in a dwelling that has no major structural problems	112,896	72	120,056	70	232,951	71
Household members used telephone(s) in last month	151,574	97	165,629	97	317,203	97
Used computer in last 12 months	98,348	63	119,659	70	218,006	67
Used Internet in last 12 months	87,879	56	104,973	61	192,852	59
Has access to motor vehicles whenever needed	105,546	68	110,142	64	215,689	66
Can easily get to places needed	118,978	76	122,503	72	241,481	74
Equivalised gross household income in 3rd quintile or above	70,680	45	88,582	52	159,261	49
Total persons	156,052	100	171,049	100	327,101	100

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 1.14.6: Community functioning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over, by remoteness, Australia 2008

	Major cities		Inner regional		Outer regional		Non remote		Remote		Very remote		Total Remote		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Connectedness to family land and history, culture, identity																
Recognises homelands	70,638	67	42,750	63	50,847	70	164,235	67	23,877	80	46,271	90	70,148	86	234,383	72
Speaks an Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander language	8,274	8	2,373	4	8,369	12	19,017	8	9,406	32	34,207	66	43,613	54	62,629	19
Attended Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural event in last 12 months	59,370	56	35,423	53	45,307	62	140,100	57	22,393	75	43,181	84	65,574	81	205,674	63
Identifies with clan group or language group	60,403	57	35,259	52	42,008	58	137,670	56	21,372	72	44,065	85	65,437	80	203,106	62
Feels able to have a say with family and friends some, most or all of the time	95,217	91	62,342	93	64,657	89	222,216	91	26,512	89	43,647	85	70,159	86	292,375	89
Contact with family or friends outside household at least once per week	98,999	94	63,159	94	68,578	94	230,735	94	28,391	95	48,389	94	76,779	94	307,515	94
Has friends can confide in	85,855	82	54,594	81	55,993	77	196,442	80	21,871	73	28,336	55	50,207	62	246,649	75
Able to get support in time of crisis from outside household - from family member	83,858	80	53,940	80	56,615	78	194,413	79	25,763	86	41,330	80	67,092	82	261,506	80
Provides support to relatives outside household	52,796	50	28,219	42	36,624	50	117,639	48	17,728	59	31,525	61	49,253	60	166,892	51
Resilience																
Did not feel discriminated against in last 12 months	75,139	71	50,498	75	52,115	71	177,752	72	20,913	70	39,148	76	60,060	74	237,812	73
Did not avoid situations due to past discrimination	71,270	68	48,861	73	49,053	67	169,185	69	19,746	66	36,576	71	56,322	69	225,507	69
Can visit homelands	58,248	55	23,890	35	30,581	42	112,719	46	13,672	46	19,626	38	33,297	41	146,017	45

(continued)

Table 1.14.6 (continued): Community functioning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over, by remoteness, Australia 2008

	Major cities		Inner regional		Outer regional		Non remote		Remote		Very remote		Total Remote		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Involvement with Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander organisation	22,346	21	12,277	18	12,280	17	46,903	19	5,051	17	7,563	15	12,613	16	59,516	18
Work allows for cultural responsibilities—can meet responsibilities	21,091	20	11,840	18	14,683	20	47,614	19	7,508	25	19,906	39	27,414	34	75,028	23
Used strategies to meet living expenses	40,081	38	22,070	33	25,663	35	87,815	36	12,816	43	18,517	36	31,333	38	119,147	36
No community problems reported	22,107	21	20,618	31	22,745	31	65,469	27	5,993	20	12,864	25	18,857	23	84,327	26
No problems reported for alcohol	64,327	61	46,305	69	43,932	60	154,564	63	12,834	43	24,741	48	37,575	46	192,138	59
No problems reported for illicit drugs	64,970	62	46,642	69	49,584	68	161,196	66	16,913	57	29,930	58	46,843	58	208,039	64
No problems reported for family violence	82,384	78	55,264	82	56,829	78	194,477	79	18,707	63	32,754	63	51,461	63	245,938	75
No problems reported for sexual assault	92,713	88	62,427	93	65,184	89	220,324	90	25,505	86	43,096	83	68,601	84	288,926	88
Agrees that most people can be trusted	37,951	36	22,682	34	23,487	32	84,120	34	11,431	38	23,424	45	34,855	43	118,975	36
Agrees that their doctor can be trusted	85,133	81	56,331	84	56,829	78	198,293	81	23,214	78	39,270	76	62,484	77	260,777	80
Agrees that the hospital can be trusted	62,001	59	41,123	61	41,062	56	144,185	59	20,145	68	39,859	77	60,004	74	204,189	62
Agrees that police in the local area can be trusted	55,047	52	35,192	52	32,474	45	122,713	50	15,888	53	31,716	61	47,604	58	170,317	52
Agrees that police outside the local area can be trusted	45,966	44	29,363	44	24,705	34	100,034	41	10,498	35	22,829	44	33,327	41	133,362	41

(continued)

Table 1.14.6 (continued): Community functioning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over, by remoteness, Australia 2008

	Major cities		Inner regional		Outer regional		Non remote		Remote		Very remote		Total Remote		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agrees that the local school can be trusted	69,805	66	42,575	63	48,244	66	160,625	65	21,607	72	42,503	82	64,110	79	224,734	69
Knows someone in organisation/ comfortable contacting	57,279	54	34,891	52	39,841	55	132,011	54	..	..	..	..	..	..	132,011	40
Adult participated in sport/ social/community activities in last 3 months	92,036	88	59,611	88	63,525	87	215,172	88	27,128	91	47,081	91	74,209	91	289,381	89
Leadership																
Social contact	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Education	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Structure and routine/having a role																
Can communicate with English speakers without difficulty (Indigenous language is main language spoken at home)	524	1	119	0	2,408	3	3,051	1	4,015	14	20,113	39	24,127	30	27,179	8
In the last 12 months, has lived in only one dwelling	83,802	80	49,366	73	57,751	79	190,919	78	23,509	79	40,729	79	64,237	79	255,157	78
Feeling safe																
Felt safe at home alone during the day	97,045	92	62,775	93	68,344	94	228,164	93	28,191	95	49,537	96	77,729	95	305,892	94
Felt safe at home alone after dark	83,590	79	53,426	79	57,915	79	194,931	79	23,284	78	43,199	84	66,483	82	261,414	80

(continued)

Table 1.14.6 (continued): Community functioning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over, by remoteness, Australia 2008

	Major cities		Inner regional		Outer regional		Non remote		Remote		Very remote		Total Remote		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Felt safe walking alone in local area after dark	53,476	51	31,413	47	37,718	52	122,607	50	15,807	53	33,633	65	49,440	61	172,047	53
Not a victim of physical or threatened violence in the last 12 months	77,391	74	51,088	76	54,334	75	182,813	74	22,331	75	41,229	80	63,559	78	246,372	75
Was taught Indigenous culture at school or as part of further studies	47,953	46	29,875	44	30,048	41	107,877	44	12,782	43	27,933	54	40,716	50	148,592	45
Learnt about own Indigenous clan / language	12,621	12	7,763	12	9,433	13	29,816	12	6,777	23	19,353	38	26,130	32	55,947	17
Vitality																
Self-assessed health status excellent or very good	45,988	44	32,847	49	28,430	39	107,265	44	11,565	39	24,174	47	35,739	44	143,004	44
Has no disability or long term-health condition	48,867	46	36,272	54	37,262	51	122,402	50	14,333	48	27,422	53	41,755	51	164,157	50
Does not have an education restriction due to disability	49,251	47	27,877	41	31,607	43	108,736	44	13,791	46	21,174	41	34,965	43	143,701	44
Does not have an employment restriction due to disability	42,489	40	25,904	38	27,796	38	96,190	39	12,493	42	17,998	35	30,491	37	126,681	39
Low/ moderate level of psychological distress (5-11 K5 score)	71,015	68	47,349	70	48,290	66	166,654	68	19,981	67	35,082	68	55,063	68	221,717	68
Employed (persons aged 25-64 in the labour force)	59,986	57	32,762	49	35,745	49	128,493	52	13,927	47	26,677	52	40,605	50	169,098	52
Living in a dwelling that has no major structural problems	79,594	76	54,273	81	49,679	68	183,546	75	19,667	66	29,738	58	49,405	61	232,951	71
Household members used telephone(s) in last month	104,137	99	67,080	100	71,694	98	242,911	99	27,686	93	46,606	90	74,291	91	317,203	97

(continued)

Table 1.14.6 (continued): Community functioning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over, by remoteness, Australia 2008

	Major cities		Inner regional		Outer regional		Non remote		Remote		Very remote		Total Remote		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Used computer in last 12 months	85,626	81	50,771	75	46,467	64	182,864	75	14,133	47	21,009	41	35,142	43	218,006	67
Used Internet in last 12 months	77,637	74	45,903	68	41,111	56	164,652	67	11,801	40	16,400	32	28,201	35	192,852	59
Has access to motor vehicles whenever needed	74,416	71	45,288	67	49,885	68	169,589	69	17,931	60	28,168	55	46,100	57	215,689	66
Can easily get to places needed	83,514	79	50,059	74	53,876	74	187,449	76	21,115	71	32,917	64	54,032	66	241,481	74
Equivalised gross household income in 3rd quintile or above	42,126	40	35,491	53	38,444	53	116,061	47	15,056	51	28,144	55	43,200	53	159,261	49
Total persons	105,217	100	67,416	100	72,967	100	245,600	100	29,839	100	51,662	100	81,501	100	327,101	100

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 1.14.7: Community functioning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over, by state/territory, Australia 2008

	NSW		Vic		Qld		SA		WA		Tas		ACT		NT		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Connectedness to family land and history, culture, identity																		
Recognises homelands	62,120	65	14,917	68	66,089	73	14,374	80	32,705	75	5,717	46	36,309	88	2,151	77	234,383	72
Speaks an Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander language	3,056	3	1,342	6	17,316	19	4,648	26	9,907	23	198	2	25,837	63	326	12	62,629	19
Attended Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural event in last 12 months	53,100	55	11,711	53	59,051	65	11,665	65	30,673	70	3,887	32	33,554	81	2,033	72	205,674	63
Identifies with clan group or language group	49,842	52	12,952	59	58,122	64	13,046	73	27,325	62	4,571	37	35,265	85	1,983	71	203,106	62
Feels able to have a say with family and friends some, most or all of the time	87,059	90	19,578	89	82,323	91	16,095	90	39,019	89	11,536	93	34,107	83	2,658	95	292,375	89
Contact with family or friends outside household at least once per week	91,738	95	20,299	93	83,605	92	17,368	97	41,515	95	11,978	97	38,278	93	2,733	97	307,515	94
Has friends can confide in	78,095	81	17,501	80	70,146	77	13,845	77	30,901	71	10,324	84	23,503	57	2,334	83	246,649	75
Resilience																		
Did not feel discriminated against in last 12 months	72,679	75	15,874	72	64,923	72	12,149	68	29,042	66	11,205	91	30,136	73	1,803	64	237,812	73
Did not avoid situations due to past discrimination	70,442	73	14,709	67	61,503	68	11,128	62	26,719	61	10,837	88	28,508	69	1,662	59	225,507	69
Can visit homelands	31,698	33	10,473	48	49,716	55	10,711	60	19,223	44	3,024	25	19,277	47	1,895	68	146,017	45
Involvement with Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander organisation	16,907	18	5,954	27	16,493	18	3,880	22	7,143	16	1,084	9	6,886	17	1,169	42	59,516	18
Work allows for cultural responsibilities—can meet responsibilities	16,923	18	3,831	18	21,573	24	4,396	25	12,558	29	1,488	12	13,462	33	797	28	75,028	23
Used strategies to meet living expenses	35,055	36	8,347	38	30,020	33	7,094	40	18,393	42	3,649	30	15,778	38	811	29	119,147	36
No community problems reported	22,155	23	5,572	25	26,566	29	4,354	24	10,116	23	3,369	27	11,478	28	717	26	84,327	26
No problems reported for alcohol	55,245	57	13,780	63	56,040	62	10,967	61	22,229	51	8,763	71	23,052	56	2,063	73	192,138	59

(continued)

Table 1.14.7 (continued): Community functioning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over, by state/territory, Australia 2008

	NSW		Vic		Qld		SA		WA		Tas		ACT		NT		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No problems reported for illicit drugs	56,777	59	14,575	66	60,459	67	11,917	66	25,281	58	8,707	71	28,203	68	2,120	75	208,039	64
No problems reported for family violence	71,788	75	17,662	81	72,392	80	13,847	77	28,906	66	10,909	88	28,012	68	2,422	86	245,938	75
No problems reported for sexual assault	83,117	86	19,885	91	80,626	89	16,341	91	38,433	88	11,746	95	36,136	88	2,642	94	288,926	88
Agrees that most people can be trusted	35,105	36	7,473	34	31,669	35	6,038	34	15,158	35	4,918	40	17,486	42	1,127	40	118,975	36
Agrees that their doctor can be trusted	79,460	83	17,622	80	71,202	79	14,253	79	34,625	79	10,882	88	30,399	74	2,333	83	260,777	80
Agrees that the hospital can be trusted	56,586	59	12,623	58	54,747	60	12,293	69	29,138	67	7,861	64	29,286	71	1,656	59	204,189	62
Agrees that police in the local area can be trusted	47,827	50	11,313	52	44,837	50	9,750	54	23,225	53	8,369	68	23,452	57	1,545	55	170,317	52
Agrees that police outside the local area can be trusted	38,633	40	9,249	42	34,923	39	6,686	37	18,771	43	7,588	61	16,434	40	1,078	38	133,362	41
Agrees that the local school can be trusted	61,921	64	14,170	65	61,065	67	11,906	66	32,502	74	8,478	69	32,877	80	1,816	65	224,734	69
Knows someone in organisation/comfortable contacting	45,275	47	14,109	64	36,582	40	8,667	48	13,358	31	7,080	57	5,228	13	1,711	61	132,011	40
Adult participated in sport/social/community activities in last 3 months	81,452	85	19,740	90	82,146	91	16,132	90	38,040	87	11,081	90	38,129	92	2,661	95	289,381	89
Leadership																		
Social contact/ Education	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Structure and routine/having a role																		
Can communicate with English speakers without difficulty (Indigenous language is main language spoken at home)	..	..	..	..	7,732	9	1,204	7	2,974	7	..	..	15,110	37	..	..	27,179	8
In the last 12 months, has lived in only one dwelling	77,568	81	17,242	79	67,796	75	14,060	78	33,537	77	9,853	80	32,798	80	2,302	82	255,157	78

(continued)

Table 1.14.7 (continued): Community functioning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over, by state/territory, Australia 2008

	NSW		Vic		Qld		SA		WA		Tas		ACT		NT		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Feeling safe																		
Felt safe at home alone during the day	89,826	93	20,290	93	85,420	94	16,510	92	40,690	93	11,773	95	38,739	94	2,643	94	305,892	94
Felt safe at home alone after dark	76,426	79	17,165	78	73,439	81	13,609	76	35,438	81	10,197	83	32,836	80	2,305	82	261,414	80
Felt safe walking alone in local area after dark	47,930	50	10,978	50	47,219	52	9,352	52	25,112	57	6,765	55	23,194	56	1,497	53	172,047	53
Not a victim of physical or threatened violence in the last 12 months	72,095	75	15,616	71	70,726	78	13,538	75	31,678	72	9,037	73	31,734	77	1,948	69	246,372	75
Was taught Indigenous culture at school or as part of further studies	43,392	45	9,418	43	36,090	40	8,535	48	20,770	47	6,315	51	22,747	55	1,326	47	148,592	45
Learnt about own Indigenous clan / language	11,505	12	3,361	15	12,211	14	3,658	20	8,293	19	932	8	15,673	38	313	11	55,947	17
Vitality																		
Self-assessed health status excellent or very good	41,492	43	10,489	48	39,433	44	6,778	38	17,407	40	6,591	53	19,517	47	1,297	46	143,004	44
Has no disability or long term-health condition	45,911	48	9,684	44	47,136	52	8,113	45	23,736	54	6,189	50	22,159	54	1,231	44	164,157	50
Does not have an education restriction due to disability	43,524	45	10,838	49	38,549	43	8,673	48	17,944	41	5,344	43	17,392	42	1,437	51	143,701	44
Does not have an employment restriction due to disability	40,353	42	9,514	43	32,463	36	7,632	43	15,856	36	4,876	40	14,832	36	1,153	41	126,681	39
Low/ moderate level of psychological distress (5-11 K5 score)	65,839	68	14,111	64	62,433	69	11,526	64	29,206	67	8,776	71	27,836	67	1,991	71	221,717	68
Employed (persons aged 25-64 in the labour force)	43,857	46	11,503	52	51,785	57	8,894	50	23,775	54	7,101	58	20,215	49	1,969	70	169,098	52
Living in a dwelling that has no major structural problems	69,843	73	15,734	72	66,682	74	12,434	69	29,752	68	9,518	77	26,575	64	2,413	86	232,951	71

(continued)

Table 1.14.7 (continued): Community functioning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 15 years and over, by state/territory, Australia 2008

	NSW		Vic		Qld		SA		WA		Tas		ACT		NT		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Household members used telephone(s) in last month	95,488	99	21,595	98	87,635	97	17,555	98	42,253	96	12,307	100	37,573	91	2,796	100	317,203	97
Used computer in last 12 months	69,588	72	17,707	81	60,620	67	12,621	70	27,555	63	9,017	73	18,346	44	2,553	91	218,006	67
Used Internet in last 12 months	62,543	65	15,544	71	54,037	60	11,231	63	23,892	55	8,248	67	14,931	36	2,425	86	192,852	59
Has access to motor vehicles whenever needed	62,768	65	15,481	71	61,436	68	12,356	69	29,699	68	9,457	77	22,280	54	2,212	79	215,689	66
Can easily get to places needed	69,293	72	16,119	74	72,521	80	12,825	72	31,000	71	9,538	77	27,899	68	2,287	81	241,481	74
Equivalentised gross household income in 3rd quintile or above	53,329	55	9,997	46	39,924	44	9,383	52	20,730	47	6,801	55	18,513	45	585	21	159,261	49
Total persons	96,367	100	21,938	100	90,587	100	17,948	100	43,826	100	12,351	100	41,274	100	2,810	100	327,101	100

Source: ABS analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Data quality issues

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004-05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the 2008 NATSISS User's guide (ABS 2010).

List of symbols used in tables

n.a. not available

– rounded to zero (including null cells)

0 zero

. . not applicable

n.e.c. not elsewhere classified

n.f.d. not further defined

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

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